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6 May 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Social Science Research Division Program

1. I am very pleased to see the program on stability in key countries under way in the Social Science Research Division of NFAC's Geographic and Societal Research entity.

2. I would like not to wait until 1982 to get a first impression of the situation in the countries selected. Would it be possible to get done, or does there exist, a quick overview evaluation to be fleshed out and improved of the projects already under way, which strike me very favorably. Also, it may be possible to reassign some people to get the full job done more quickly.

3. There are three complementary tasks I would like to see integrated into this program:

a. With early priority, I would like to see a retrospective evaluation on how the factors of instability lost Iran and what might have been done about it at various stages. I imagine some of this already exists. I would just like to have it put together and updated as a guide and measuring stick for the work being done for

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b. Attached are some papers on instability some of which you are familiar with. Others have come in from outside sources. The distinguishing feature of these, particularly work, is that they look at the problem in terms of how we can go about exploiting the source of instability and how the Soviets would be likely to help those sources along. We may not get that out of the analysis produced in the Social Science Research Division, but each of those countries should, at an early stage, be looked at in those terms, probably on the basis of input obtained from DDO, which you will know how to do.

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c. Helene Boatner showed me some work that the Office of Political Analysis is doing on instability. It was to a considerable extent [redacted] I wanted it to say what this produced for us but I have confidence in good old-fashioned analysis. In my experience, [redacted] a large variety of factors 25X1 which needs to be reflected in an overall political judgment. I merely mention this last point to be sure these two activities are not going on without being related to and judged in the light of each other.

William J. Casey

Attachments (2 folders)

cc: Director, DCI/DDCI Executive Staff

Attachments--

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